

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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44

ACTION AF-18

I FO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 \*PC-03 \*

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 SSC-01 DRC-01 /157 W

----- 011080

R 030800Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4127

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0002

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - MRN 0002 VICE 0003

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, BY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL PROMOTION AND MINISTERIAL CHANGE

1. BURUNDI RADIO ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 31 PROMOTION OF PRESIDENT MICHEL MICOMBERO FROM RANK OF COLONEL TO THAT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL IN BURUNDI ARMY. NOMINATION WAS MADE BY GENERAL STAFF AND CONFIRMED BY SUPREME COUNCIL OF REPUBLIC (COMPOSED OF MILITARY OFFICERS). PROMOTION REPORTED TO PUBLIC AS LONG OVER DUE RECOGNITION OF WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ROUTINE PROGRESSION THROUGH RANKS IN LAST SEVEN YEARS.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO MADE OVER NEW YEAR WEEKEND OF FIRING OF DR. CHARLES BITARIHO AS MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND REPLACEMENT BY DR. ANTOINE DEVENGE. LATTER HAS HEADED SEVERAL LOCAL HOSPITALS AS DIRECTOR, BUT NATIONAL LEADERSHIP QUALITIES UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME DESPITE FACT HE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ACTIVE ON LABOR SIDE OF PARTY APPARATUS (UNION DES TRAVAILLEURS DU BURUNDI). ACTING UNDP RES REP REPORTS STORIES THAT DEVENGE IS CONSIDERED A HUTU BUT EMBASSY  
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HAS NO COORROBORATION AS YET.

3 . COMMENT: THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS FOR SOME TIME THAT RADICAL ELEMENTS OF TUTSI ESTABLISHMENT LED BY ARTEMON SIMBANANIYE HAVE BEEN OUT TO "GET" BITARIHO AS WELL AS PRS MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUE IN JUSTICE, GABRIEL MPOZAGARA, BOTH OF WHOM HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN ACTIVE IN OPPOSING SIMBANANIYE INITIATIVES WITHIN SIMBANANIYE CIRCLE, WILL NOW HAVE FREER HAND TO RUN MIN HEALTH.

4. PROMOTION OF PRESIDENT HAD ALSO BEEN RUMORED, ALTHOUGH GRANTING OF RANK OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL SOMEWHAT UNEXPECTED IN VIEW SIZE BURUNDI ARMY.  
YOST

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESIDENT, RECOGNITION, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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